

There are **25 million** reasons
why it's important to **reduce idling.**



Take the pledge...
the key to reducing idling is you.



Do the Math...

There are lots of reasons why it is important to reduce idling. You can...

1. Help improve the air quality in your community.
2. Save money by not wasting fuel.
3. Reduce wear-and-tear on your engine.
4. Protect your own health and the health of countless children who will thank you!



What Is the Link Between Diesel Exhaust and Your Health?

The diesel exhaust from your school bus can be harmful for adults, but even more so for children. That is because kids are more susceptible to air pollution than healthy adults. Unlike adults, their respiratory systems are still developing, and they have a faster breathing rate.

Diesel exhaust contains billions of small particles, known as fine particulate matter, among other pollutants. These particles are so small that several thousand of them could fit on the period at the end of this sentence. When kids breathe in school bus exhaust, these particles can cause lung damage and aggravate asthma, bronchitis, and related health problems.

The exhaust from an idling school bus also pollutes the air in your community. It can even enter school buildings through fresh air intakes, doors, and open windows. Be an active part of your community—start reducing idling today!

Turn the Key and Make a Difference

Every day, 25 million children ride a school bus on their way to and from the classroom. Unfortunately, unnecessary school bus idling can pose a health risk to this precious cargo, generating air pollution that can aggravate children's asthma, allergies, or other respiratory problems.



"We fully implemented our bus idling policy beginning with the 2004-05 school year. In 2004-05, although we drove 3,716 more miles than 2003-04, we used 10,470 fewer gallons of diesel fuel. I believe that employees are supporting the idling policy and that their continued attention to our school bus idling guidelines should pay even greater dividends for our students and the community in the future."

— *Bill McCoy, Director of Operations, CEH, Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln, Nebraska*

As a school bus driver, you always put the safety and security of the kids on your bus first. Now you have another opportunity to protect their health, as well as your own.

Just by turning off the school bus engine when you arrive at the loading and unloading area at schools, you can decrease the amount of diesel emissions to which children, as well as you, are exposed. By reducing the idling time of a school bus, you can help save fuel and money, reduce pollution, and, most importantly, protect children from harmful pollutants contained in diesel exhaust.



The **key** to reducing idling is **you!**

"I'm proud to have taken a pledge to reduce idling. I guess you could say we're all breathing easier as a result."

— *Hank Drumm, Sr., School Bus Driver, Longwood Combined School, Middle Island, New York*

What Can You Do?

Here's your homework assignment...

As always, be sure to follow all state and local regulations and policies.

- ☐ Turn off the engine as soon as possible after arriving at school loading or unloading areas. Only restart the bus when you are ready to depart.
- ☐ Limit your idling time during early morning warm-up to what the manufacturer recommends (generally no more than five minutes).
- ☐ Drive farther behind a vehicle with visible exhaust or a noticeable odor.



You are not alone!

Here's what your school district can do to help...

- ✓ Use smart practices such as following proper maintenance procedures, encouraging drivers not to caravan too closely, and assigning the newest buses to the longest routes.
- ✓ Implement a reduced idling program for the school or school district.
- ✓ Take advantage of existing print materials to publicize the idling program or create new materials. Visit **www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus** for sample materials.
- ✓ Create a comfortable space inside each school building and/or bus depot where bus drivers can wait.
- ✓ Consider available options to help with cabin comfort, extreme weather, and equipment operation.

Take the Pledge!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

You hold the key to a healthier ride! Show your commitment to reducing idling by completing the **Idle Reduction Pledge**. To take the pledge, simply complete and detach the form to the right. If you are taking the pledge as part of a group workshop or conference, please submit the form as directed by your coordinator. If you are completing this form as an individual, please fax it to 734-214-4869, attention Clean School Bus USA.



Idle Reduction Pledge

I _____ pledge to:

1. Limit idling time in school bus loading and unloading areas.
2. Turn the engine off in the school yard whenever possible.
3. Learn more about implementing idle reduction programs and policies in my school district.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

School District: _____

City and State: _____

Myth:

It is important to warm up the engine with a long idle period, especially in cold weather.

Fact:

With today's school bus engines, bus and engine manufacturers routinely suggest a warm-up time of fewer than five minutes. In fact, idling causes significantly more wear on internal parts compared to driving at regular speeds.

Myth:

The engine must be kept running in order to operate the school bus safety equipment, such as the flashing lights or stop signal arm.

Fact:

Safety equipment can be operated as needed without the engine running, with no ill effects on the electrical system of the bus. This does not apply, however, to school buses that use air-operated equipment such as doors, crossing control arms, and other features, where the air supply will not last as long.

Get more information about the
Clean School Bus USA program today!

Simply visit our Web site at
www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus
to download idle reduction policies,
tip sheets, and other ways to reduce emissions
while the school bus is moving; e-mail us at
cleanschoolbususa@epa.gov; or leave
a voice message at **734-214-4780**.



Clean School Bus USA is a public-private environmental partnership led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that seeks to reduce children's exposure to air pollution from diesel school buses. The program emphasizes ways to reduce public school bus emissions through idle reduction strategies, engine retrofit, clean fuels, and bus replacement.

